

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY LOME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4528
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
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AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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EO 11652: ADS-DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT
TAGS: PORT AOU TO
SUBJ: EYADEMA COMMENTS ON OAU SUMMIT

1. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM
KHARTOUM OAU SUMMIT, PRESIDENT EYADEMA TOUCHED ON SEVERAL
INTERESTING SUBJECTS. HE CHARACTERIZED THE MEETING AS
ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL IN HIS EXPERIENCE BECAUSE CHIEFS
OF STATE HAD BEEN ABLE TO HAVE FRANK AND OFTEN FRUITFUL
DISCUSSIONS OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AFRICAN QUESTIONS.
SPEAKING OF THE CREATION OF A PAN AFRICAN DEFENSE FORCE,
EYADEMA SAID:

QUOTE EVERYBODY IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE NECESSITY OF
SUCH A FORCE BECAUSE, AS MANY STRESSED, NATIONAL SECURITY
IS BEYOND PRICE. WE ARE ALL AWARE THAT AT PRESENT WE ARE
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THE VICTIMS OF THE POLICIES OF THE EAST AND WEST. IN MY
OPINION, THIS IS WHAT LEADS TO DIVISION AMONG AFRICANS;
WHEN WE REALIZE THAT THE LEADERS OF THE TWO BLOCS, EVEN
WHEN THEY DON'T LIKE EACH OTHER, AGREE TO MEET IN ORDER
TO DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS THEN IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THE
AFRICANS DO THE SAME. END QUOTE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION WHETHER IT IS PROPER TO
DIVIDE AFRICAN COUNTRIES INTO "MODERATE" AND "PROGRESSIVE"
STATES, EYADEMA REPLIED:

QUOTE THE SO CALLED MODERATES AND PROGRESSIVES ARE, FOR WE
TOGOLESE, SIMPLY AFRICANS ON THE SAME EQUAL FOOTING.
WE CONSIDER SUCH A CLASSIFICATION AS A FALSE PROBLEM. IT
IS THE GREAT POWERS WHO HAVE TRIED TO INTRODUCE THAT
CLASSIFICATION FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF DIVIDING US. TOGO,
FOR ITS PART, CONDUCTS A REALISTIC POLICY. WE BELIEVE THAT
IF A COUNTRY CALLED PROGRESSIVE INTRODUCES A SUBJECT IN
OUR DISCUSSIONS AND THE SUBJECT COINCIDES WITH AFRICAN
INTERESTS, WE SHOULD ACCEPT IT. IT WOULD BE THE SAME FOR
A SUBJECT PRESENTED BY A STATE CALLED MODERATE ON THE SAME
CONDITION THAT THE INTEREST OF OUR CONTINENT IS PROTECTED.
END QUOTE.

3. THE REST OF THE CONFERENCE WAS GIVEN OVER TO AN ACCOUNT
OF THE ELECTION OF TOGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER KODJO AS
OAU SECRETARY GENERAL. ACCORDING TO EYADEMA, SIERGA LEONE
AND ZAIRE DECIDED TO WITHDRAW THEIR CANDIDATES OUT OF
FRIENDSHIP FOR TOGO AS SOON AS IT WAS CLEAR THAT KODJO'S
CANDIDACY HAD A SERIOUS CHANCE OF BEING SUCCESSFUL.
EYADEMA ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD REACHED AGREEMENT WITH
PRESIDENT AHIDJO THAT AS SOON AS IT WAS CLEAR WHICH OF
THEIR CANDIDATES WAS IN THE LEAD, THE OTHER WOULD
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WITHDRAW.

4. COMMENT: TOGOLESE MEDIA ARE TAKING THE LINE THAT IT
IS PRESIDENT EYADEMA WHO DESERVES CONGRATULATIONS FOR
ARRANGING KODJO'S VICTORY AND THAT THE ELECTION
VINDICATES THE WISDOM OF TOGO'S FOREIGN POLICY. EYADEMA
WAS CLEARLY EBULLIENT AT AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONIES
SATURDAY AFTERNOON. YOUNG

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